North Carolina
# School Nutrition Weekly Update

**Week of June 30-July 4, 2014** **Issue No. 2014.7-1**

## In this Issue:


- *Important Letter from the Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture* ***[1 Attachment]***
- *Smart Snacks Options Letter and Comparison Chart* ***[2 Attachments]***
- *Smart Snacks NC Question and Answers* ***[1 Attachment]***
- *2014-15 Agreement Renewal*
- *SP 50-2014 – USDA Extends Deadline to Enroll in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) until August 31, 2014* ***[1 Attachment]***
- *SP 51-2014 – Eligibility Effective Date for Directly Certified Students* ***[1 Attachment]***
- *SP 52-2014 – Deadline Extension: State Agency Requests for Participation in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: Pilot for Canned, Frozen and Dried Fruits and Vegetables* ***[2 Attachments]***
- *SP 53-2014 - Transition of Foods and Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value to Smart Snacks in School Standards* ***[2 Attachments]***
- *HACCP Commercial Kitchen Templates* ***[5 Attachments]***
- *Time as a Public Health Control (TPHC) Continuing Education Webinar*
- *Annual School Nutrition Administrator Conference*
- *Breakfast Meal Pattern and OVS*
- *Healthier US School Challenge Application Deadline Extended*
- *Q&A – SSO and Point of Service Counting*
- *Q&A – Ice Cream/Frozen Desserts and Whole Grain-rich Requirements*
- *Q&A – Variance Approval for Production Records*
- *Smart Options - Teach the Leader*
- *Vacancy Announcements* ***[1 Attachment]***
- *Mark Your Calendar*

### *Have Questions? Need Assistance?*

*Please remember to always contact your regional consultants first for any questions or assistance unless directed otherwise.*

## *Important Letter from the Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture*

Attached please find a letter from Dr. Janey Thornton, dated June 27, 2014, addressed to school nutrition professionals/colleagues. This letter thanks School Nutrition Personnel for their hard work and dedication in implementing the new meal standards, asking for continued support, and pledging ongoing technical assistance and flexibility from USDA.

**janey thornton ltr.pdf**

## *Smart Snacks Options Letter and Comparison Chart*

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 included a provision that authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to establish nutrition standards for all foods and beverages sold on the school campus throughout the instructional day. These standards, called "Smart Snack Nutrition Standards" must be applied within the context of the existing NC General Statutes and policies of the State Board of Education. To clarify the relationship of these three layers of rules, the School Nutrition Services section has prepared the attached document, including a comparison chart, to describe the options available to LEAs. Additionally, USDA's "Smart Snacks in School: USDA's "All Foods Sold in Schools" Standards" document is attached.

Should you have questions about these rules and their application in NC's public schools, please contact Lynn Harvey, Chief, School Nutrition Services at lynn.harvey@dpi.nc.gov.

**smart snacks options.pdf**
**usda smart snacks standards.pdf**

## *Smart Snacks NC Questions and Answers*

We have received several questions in response to the Memorandum to Superintendents, Finance Officers and School Nutrition Administrators addressing the "Smart Snacks Interim Final Rule." Each week, we will compile and respond to your questions pertaining to the implementation of the Smart Snacks rule, including the nutrition standards, via the School Nutrition Weekly Update. The attached is the first round of Q&As. Look for more next week.

If you have questions, or would like further clarification of any of the questions previously addressed, please send the questions to your School Nutrition Regional Consultant or your Regional Nutrition Specialist.

**smart snacks q&a 7-3-2014.pdf**

## *2014-15 Agreement Renewal*

The written Agreements for the 2014-15 school year have been finalized and were distributed to SFAs on Monday, June 30 and Tuesday, July 1. The new agreement was updated to include the Smart Snacks Interim Final Rule and the Community Eligibility Provision as well as USDA Policy memoranda.

Please be advised that all Agreement renewals (online application and written agreement) for the 2014-15 school year must be approved prior to service of meals. SFAs will not be allowed to claim meals for reimbursement that are served without an approved 2014-15 Agreement.

If you have questions or need assistance please contact:

- Traditional Public Schools and RCCIs please contact Karla Wheeler at karla.wheeler@dpi.nc.gov or 919.807.3518 or your regional consultant.

- Charter Schools, NonPublics, and Special Milk Sponsors please contact Jacquelyn McGowan at Jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov or 919.807.3595 or your regional consultant.

In the event that you did not receive the email please contact your Regional Consultant for the appropriate agreement documents.

## *SP-50-2014 – USDA Extends Deadline to Enroll in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) until August 31, 2014*

USDA recognizes that many LEAs may need additional time to consider and apply for the CEP. As a result, USDA is extending the deadline for LEAs to elect to participate in CEP in SY 2014-2015 until August 31, 2014. More than 27% of NC's students live in food-insecure households; for these students, meals served at school are not just a convenience…they are a necessity. Many students enrolled in our public schools depend upon school meals for their primary source of sustenance every day. If you have schools that are eligible for CEP and have considered the possibility of participating in CEP but are still uncertain as to the best decision for your LEA, please contact us. Our staff will be happy to provide technical assistance, answer questions, confirm data or provide other support needed to ensure you and your school officials have all the information needed to make the very best decision for your schools and your students. We are working closely with our colleagues in Title 1 and E-rate so we can involve these areas of the department to support your decision if this level of involvement is needed.

THANK YOU for your efforts to make sure we provide optimum access to nutritious meals to our most vulnerable students through the CEP.

**sp-50-2014.pdf**

## *SP 51-2014 – Eligibility Effective Date for Directly Certified Students*

This memorandum addresses inquiries regarding flexibility in determining the effective date of eligibility for students who are directly certified to receive free meals or free milk in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Special Milk Program (SMP). The clarifications (in the memo) are consistent with the flexibility provided for determining the effective date of eligibility for applications in policy memorandum SP 11-2014, *Effective Date of Free or Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Determinations* (December 3, 2013).

**sp-51-2014.pdf**

## *SP 52-2014 – Deadline Extension: State Agency Requests for Participation in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: Pilot for Canned, Frozen and Dried Fruits and Vegetables*

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued a Request for Application for participation in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP): Pilot for Canned, Frozen and Dried Fruits and Vegetables through policy memorandum SP 33-2014, April 7, 2014. The memorandum included guidance and procedures for selection of States and schools and requested that State agencies submit their applications to FNS no later than June 15, 2014.

FNS is extending the deadline for receipt of applications until July 19, 2014 in order to provide interested States additional time to apply for the pilot. Included with the extension notification is the original *Request for Application Guidance and Procedures for Selection of States and Schools,* SP 33-2014. State agencies must follow the guidance and procedures set forth in SP 33-2014.

**sp-52-2014.pdf**
**sp-33-2014.pdf**

## *SP 53-2014 – Transition of Foods and Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value to Smart Snacks in School Standards*

This memorandum is to inform you that all Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value exemptions will end on June 30, 2014. Therefore, the attached list, *Exemptions Under the Competitive Foods Regulation* will become obsolete on July 1, 2014.

**sp-53-2014.pdf**
**sp-53-2014a.xls**

## *HACCP Commercial Kitchen Templates*

The updated HACCP Plan templates for the commercial kitchens are attached to this message. You will see

some changes in the format and minor updates to the content to reflect the 2013 Food Code and the 2011 Food Code Supplement. For your convenience, the content updates are highlighted.

- HACCP Part 1 (contains Prerequisite Program Standards, Safe Food Handling Procedures, Corrective Action requirements, and Allergen Facts)
- HACCP Part 2 (contains annual assessment forms and documentation)
- HACCP Part 3 (contains daily, weekly, monthly, and as needed monitoring forms)
- HACCP Part 4 (contains continuing education and professional development information)
- HACCP Part 5 (contains menus and recipes requirements and information)

The Continuing Education Aids will be updated to include some new topics including teaching employees who serve or cashier how to respond appropriately to allergen questions from customers.

Register and join our webinar on **Tuesday, July 22 at 9:00 AM** to learn more about the HACCP changes. https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/813736033

For questions and assistance please contact Susan Thompson at susan.thompson@dpi.nc.gov or 919.218.4090.

**haccp pt1.pdf**
**haccp pt2.pdf**
**haccp pt3.pdf**
**haccp pt4.doc**
**haccp pt5.doc**

## *Time as a Public Health Control (TPHC) Continuing Education Webinar*

TPHC foods are menu items using time without temperature control as the public health control for a working supply of time-temperature controlled for safety food before cooking, or for ready-to-eat time-temperature controlled for safety food that is displayed or held for sale or service.

TPCH procedures are especially effective for foods served in innovative or alternative service areas such as classroom, hallways, buses, or field trips and for foods on the serving line that are difficult to hold at the appropriate temperature. Join our webinar on July 10 (9:00 – 10:30 am) to learn more about holding foods safely with TPHC. Register at: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/723685352.

## *Annual School Nutrition Administrator Conference*

The Annual School Nutrition Administrator Conference will be held on October 22-24, 2014 at the Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center, 4700 Emperor Blvd., Durham, NC. Additional information will be forthcoming by September.

## *Breakfast Meal Pattern and OVS*

The continuing education materials for the breakfast menu planning and OVS have been updated and should be posted within the next two weeks.

## *Healthier US School Challenge Application Deadline Extended*

FNS is extending the deadline for the HealthierUS School Challenge under the current criteria until **August 30, 2014**. Complete HUSSC applications that will be considered under the old criteria must be postmarked, emailed, entered electronically, or hand delivered to the State Agency on or before Saturday, August 30th. For those applications actually received by the State Agency after close of business on Friday, August 29th, the postmarked date should be documented on the application cover sheet.

## *Q&A – SSO and Point of Service Counting*

**QUESTION:** In the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) program, does counting the plates or meals produced before and after the meal service support the requirement for adequate point of service meal counting?

**ANSWER:** No, it is critical that site personnel and monitors understand the importance of accurate point-of service meal counts. Only complete meals served to eligible children can be claimed for reimbursement. Therefore, meals must be counted at the actual point of service, i.e., meals are counted as they are served, to ensure that an accurate count of meals served is obtained and reported. Counting meals at the point of service also allows site personnel to ensure that only complete meals are served.

SFAs should consider training teachers or other Program staff to conduct adequate point of service meal counts. Please note, if you have to employ staff to conduct point of service meal counts and or monitoring, these cost are allowable for under the SSO.

Additional questions regarding the Seamless Summer Option program should be directed to:
**Cynthia Ervin at cynthia.ervin@dpi.nc.gov or 919.807.3505.**

## *Q&A – Ice Cream/Frozen Desserts and Whole Grain-rich Requirements*

**QUESTION:** Must ice cream/frozen novelty desserts containing grain (i.e. cones, ice cream sandwiches, etc.) meet the whole grain-rich requirements if sold as an a la carte item or offered as an "extra" with the reimbursable meal?

**ANSWER:** No, ice cream/ frozen dessert products containing grain do not have to be whole grain-rich if offered for sale as an a la carte item or provided as an "extra" with the reimbursable meal; however, any grain-based desserts such as these would still count toward the limits for grain based desserts when offered as "extras" for the reimbursable meal. All "extras" offered must be also included in the weekly average of dietary specifications. Any item, including ice cream/frozen novelty desserts, offered for a la carte sale must comply with the Smart Snack Rule.

*References:*
*July 1, 2014 email response from SERO*
*http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/smart-snacks-school*

Should you have additional questions please contact **Susan Thompson at susan.thompson@dpi.nc.gov or 919.218.4090.**

## *Q&A – Variance Approval for Production Records*

**QUESTION:** When is a variance approval required for Production Records?

**ANSWER:** SFAs must submit any production record that is not available for download on the website at http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/information-resources/menu-planning-production/menu-planning-production/meal-production-records for a variance approval. The documents are reviewed by the regional school nutrition specialist as part of the annual State Agency agreement process to ensure that all required information is included. This process includes production record documents that are customized by the SFA or available as part of a commercial software program

## *Smart Options - Teach the Leader*

This workshop is tentatively planned for August 4 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM in the Raleigh vicinity. Watch for the registration announcement that will be sent from McKimmon Center soon. The workshop will offer the information and resources required for teaching *Smart Options: School Meals Make a Difference in NC*, an approved School Nutrition Association (SNA) certification course. *Smart Options,* from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Services, is a continuing education course tailored for school nutrition professionals in North Carolina that covers nutrition and physical activity guidelines, school nutrition

regulations, methods for serving quality school meals, strategies for linking the cafeteria to the classroom with nutrition education, ways to market school meals, and school wellness. Smart Options was developed with assistance and review from an advisory committee of school nutrition administrators from across North Carolina. The curriculum is tailored to our state and features local school success stories.

## *Vacancy Announcements*

**SFA Name:** Cabarrus County Schools
**Position Title:** Child Nutrition Field Supervisor

See the attached vacancy for details and instructions for applying.
**cabarrus supvsr.pdf**

## *Mark Your Calendar*

July 4 ..... July 4 Holiday (State Offices Closed)

July 10 (Thursday).....Deadline for Submitting Claim for Reimbursement (for June 2014)

July 13-16..... SNA Annual National Conference (Boston)

August 10 (Sunday)..... Deadline for Submitting Claim for Reimbursement (for July 2014)

August 30..... Deadline for Healthier US School Challenge Application

"The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited basis will apply to all programs and/or employment activities).

Under the Federal Child Nutrition Program and USDA policy, discrimination is prohibited under the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complain Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html , or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov . Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."